

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION:

In accordance with the foregoing, claims 31 and 41 are cancelled herein without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 19, 26-30, 32-40, 42, 43, and 47-51 are amended herein. No new matter is being presented, and approval and entry are respectfully requested.

Claims 19-30, 32-40, and 42-51 are pending and under consideration. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103(a):

Independent claims 19, 47, 48, and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent 4,218,755 to Root (“Root”) in view of US Patent 4,968,878 to Pong et al. (“Pong”).

Amended claims 19 and 47 relate to an “unmanned mobile vehicle movable within a stable for measuring meteorological conditions within the stable.” Amended claim 48 relates to an “unmanned mobile vehicle movable within a stable.” Amended claim 50 relates to an “unmanned mobile vehicle movable along a floor of the stable to measure meteorological conditions within the stable.”

Root relates to a weather forecasting apparatus for predicting future weather conditions in response to supplied information of current condition. According to Root, the apparatus is suitable for being held in the hand of a user.

Pong relates an *obstacle detection* and position sensing system for autonomous mobile vehicles. Pong describes that the system includes two-spaced apart contact and position sensitive bumpers disposed across the frontal cross-section of the vehicle. A combination of the bumpers and light curtain provides complete frontal coverage of the potential collision cross-section of the vehicle, without obstructing the field of view of sonar, optical, or other forward-looking sensors.

Nothing in Root and Pong, *either alone or in combination*, discloses or suggests an unmanned mobile vehicle movable within a stable for measuring meteorological conditions within the stable (*see* claims 19, 47, 48, and 50 of the present invention). Moreover, it would

Applicant: Geerts
Appl. No. 09/767,496
Page 8 of 8

not have been obvious to any person of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Root and Pong in order to provide an unmanned mobile vehicle movable within a stable for measuring meteorological conditions within the stable. As such, Root and Pong fail to disclose or suggest the features as recited in claims 19, 47, 48, and 50 of the present invention.

Dependent claims 20-46 (depending from claim 19), claim 49 (depending from claim 48), and claim 51 (depending from claim 50) recite patentably distinguishing features of their own, and further, are at least patentably distinguishing over the cited prior art due to their dependency from the independent claims 19, 48, and 50.

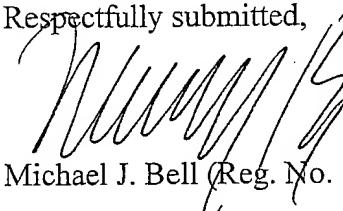
In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of the claims.

CONCLUSION:

All of the stated grounds of objection and rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. The Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding objections and rejections and that they be withdrawn. The Applicants believe that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and, as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael J. Bell (Reg. No. 39,604)

Date: 2/29/08

HOWREY LLP
2941 Fairview Park Drive, Box 7
Falls Church, VA 22042
(703) 663-3600